

• Abroad •

Leipzig, German Democratic (Communist) Republic.

East German authorities long ago learned to take in stride the routine defections of doctors, scientists, politicians and farmers. But they can't figure out how to handle the No. 1 defector of the past fortnight. He is Kurt Henkels, director of the Radio Leipzig dance orchestra, and for a decade the most popular dance band leader in East Germany. Better police work might have forestalled Herr Henkels' break to freedom. He gave himself away last year on a tour of West Berlin, Hamburg and Warsaw, during which he dug into some hot licks that no true citizen of East Germany would have permitted himself. Now he has departed for good, but has left behind a continuing political problem more difficult to solve than if he had been a mere Cabinet Minister. His recordings are in every home with a phonograph, and enough of them are stocked in the music shops to make a pile longer than a Sputnik's orbit.

Toronto, Canada. Queen Elizabeth's visit is felt to be less successful than her advisers had hoped. On the technical side, her tour has been overorganized, with resultant snafus—including the physical exhaustion of the Queen herself. Politically, Canadians, with their generally North American outlook and rather intense new nationalism, prefer to keep the monarchy vague and distant, and resent any suggestion of dependence.

Peiping, Chinese Peoples' (Communist) Republic.

It is currently a sign of good standing to have a frugal and abstemious "public image." A recent article sang the praises of Mao Tse-tung by describing the trunks in which he takes his well-known swims as "very old, with patches on top of patches." His residence is "very old," with a minimum of furniture. His shoes are faded, and "he has worn his gritty cotton uniform for years." Chief of State Liu Shao-chi's admirers report that "one shirt could last him for several years. Though the sleeves and collar of his shirt are frayed, he still wears it. When comrades suggest that he should buy a new one, he replies: 'Change the collar and mend the sleeves, it will still be good for wearing.'" His socks are also mended; and like Mao's trunks, have "patches over patches." Against this background, aficionados of Chinese Communism guess that Chou En-lai, general and Premier, may be slipping. The best that can be said of him is that "sometimes, when the cook is absent," he and a fellow-comrade cook their own meal. Total silence on his clothes is interpreted to mean that his trunks, shirt and socks are patchless.

London, England. The strike in the British printing industry, now in its second month, is the most sharply fought British labor dispute in many years. All newspapers except the half-dozen "national" journals published in London have had to stop publication. Most magazines have suspended. Those that continue are printed—poorly, on low-grade paper—abroad or in one of the few unstruck shops.

Job printing has also dropped to a trickle. The basic issue seems to be emerging as a decisive problem for the entire current phase of economic development. The employees of the printing industry demanded higher wages and a reduction in the work week. The employers were ready to agree, provided that they could increase productive efficiency by installing new machinery and eliminating wasteful labor practices. This the union refused, and the strike was on.



"I was saying: pretty hot, isn't it?"

Paris, France. *Le Canard Enchaîné*, French satirical weekly, judging Brigitte Bardot's marriage to be the summer's most sensational news event, imagines the comments of various personalities. *Pinay* (Minister of Finance): "As the principal source of our foreign exchange, Brigitte did not have the moral right to place her entire capital in the hands of a single individual, thus sacrificing the national interest." *A Colonel*: "It's a plot against the morale of the army! *Si nos arrières ne tiennent pas, vers quels revers allons-nous?*" (The French punning is not, or should not be, translatable.) *A Deputy*: "Inacceptable! Constitutionally considered, the oral question posed by the Mayor of Louveciennes (who performed the marriage), 'Will you take this woman as your wife?' must be followed by a debate." *John Doe*: "Send Brigitte to Geneva, and my bet is that the Four will agree on a program!" *De Gaulle*: "To get married, that is all very well; but afterwards there remain other things to do."

Rome, Italy. Conservatives in Italy are commenting with satisfaction on de Gaulle's recent visit, which they believe has much strengthened the Paris-Rome leg of the Bonn-Paris-Rome triangle that is more and more dominating the affairs of western Europe. This analysis does not omit the ironic observation that de Gaulle's present policy of rapprochement with France's two wartime enemies is reminiscent of Vichy and Pétain. Two changes have made the rearrangement easier. The division of Germany leaves Prussia, the traditional troubler of France, in Russian hands; and Italy, pushed out by defeat in the war, is no longer a rival of France for political leadership in North Africa.

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